

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 05282 310007Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 ACDA-10 TRSE-00 /079 W
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R 301731Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3713
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMCONSUL TRIESTE
AMCONSUL TURIN

UNCLAS ROME 5282

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT, FR, US
SUBJ: WEU DEFENSE COMMITTEE VISIT TO US--PRESS CONFERENCE
REMARKS

1. MARCH 30 EDITION OF L'UNITA, DRAWING ON ANSA STORY,
REPORTS ON COMMENTS OF SENATOR UGO PECCHIOLO (PCI) DURING
THE WEU DEFENSE COMMITTEE'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON
ON MARCH 29. PECCHIOLO IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "AMERICAN
MILITARY SECRETS DO NOT INTEREST US. WE CAME TO AMERICA TO
ESTABLISH A DIALOGUE WITH THE LEADERS AND THE PEOPLE OF THIS
COUNTRY." HE WENT ON TO ADD THAT "HE IS CONSCIOUS OF THE INTEREST
AND THE CURIOSITY THAT EXISTS GIVEN THE PRESENCE OF THE COMMUNISTS
ON THE DELEGATION. THIS SHOULD BE SEEN AS A SIGN OF CHANGING
TIMES. IN THE WORLD THERE ARE FORTUNATELY TAKING PLACE PROCESSES
THAT POINT TOWARDS THE UNITY OF DEMOCRATIC FORCES...

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WE CAME HERE TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS OF THE ATLANTIC
ALLIANCE, OF WHICH ITALY IS PART, AND TO ESTABLISH A DIALOGUE
WITH COLLEAGUES OF WESTERN EUROPE AND THE LEADERS OF THE
UNITED STATES. WE FIRMLY BELIEVE IN EUROPEAN UNITY, AND WE
ARE CONVINCED THAT THE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN EUROPE AND
THE UNITED STATES OUGHT TO BE STRENGTHENED."

2. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS REPORTS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE VISIT HAD BEEN MODIFIED GIVEN THE PRESENCE OF COMMUNISTS ON THE DELEGATION, PECCHIOLI DISMISSED THESE AS UNFOUNDED, STATING IN A SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTORY MANNER, THAT BOTH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE CHIEF OF THE WEU DELEGATION HAD MERELY NOTED THAT THE DURATION OF THE VISIT HAD BEEN SHORTENED.

3. L'UNITA, NOTES THAT PCF DEPUTY BOUCHENY MADE COMMENTS DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH CLOSELY FOLLOWED THOSE MADE BY PECCIOLI. IN CONCLUDING HIS REMARKS, PECCHIOLI MENTIONED THAT HE WOULD BE REMAINING IN THE UNITED STATES FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE WEU VISIT FOR MEETINGS WITH CONTACTS IN THE AMERICAN CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES IN BOTH NEW YORK AND BOSTON. THE ONLY OTHER NEWSPAPER TO MENTION THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS THE PCI-ORIENTED PAESE SERA. GARDNER

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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